

How wills  
shall be  
authentica-  
ted or  
proved.

person authorized to demand it, for the purpose of having it proved according to law.

SEC. 3. If any private person, in whose possession or custody a will or codicil shall be, after the death of the testator or testatrix, shall wilfully neglect to deliver the same to the register of wills, or the register or clerk of any office proper for recording wills in the county where the said person resides, or where it is proper to prove the same, or to some executor named in the will, for the space of three calendar months after the death of the testator or testatrix shall be known to the said person, he or she, thus offending, shall be subject, on conviction in a court of law, to such fine as the court shall in their discretion think proper.

SEC. 4. An attested copy, under the seal of office, of any will, testament or codicil, recorded in any office authorized to record the same, shall be admitted as evidence in any court of law or equity, provided that the execution of the original will or codicil be subject to be contested until a probat hath been had according to this act.

SEC. 5. Any will, or codicil, containing any disposition relative to goods, chattels or personal estate, may be proved in the county where most of the witnesses reside, or in the county in which letters testamentary or of administration may be granted.

SEC. 6. If any will or codicil, making any disposition relative to goods, chattels, or personal property or rights, or appointing an executor, be exhibited for proof to the register of wills in the county wherein the will may be proved, in the recess of the court, and any of the next relations of the deceased shall attend, and make no objections, or enter no caveat, or if it shall appear that reasonable notice hath been given to such of the next relations as might conveniently be therewith served, of the time of exhibiting the said will or codicil, and no person shall object, or enter a caveat, the register shall thereupon proceed to take the probat, and to grant letters testamentary accordingly.

SEC. 7. If any such will or codicil, respecting personal property, or appointing an executor, be exhibited for probat to the orphans court of the county where the same may be proved, and any of the next relations of the deceased shall attend, or if notice shall appear to have been given as aforesaid, and no caveat shall have been made against the *said will* or *codicil*, the said court *may forthwith* proceed to take the probat of such will or codicil.

SEC. 8. If any such will or codicil, respecting personal property, or appointing an executor, be exhibited to the orphans court, and none of the near relations of the deceased shall attend, and no notice shall appear to have been given, the said court may either direct summons to the said near relations, or